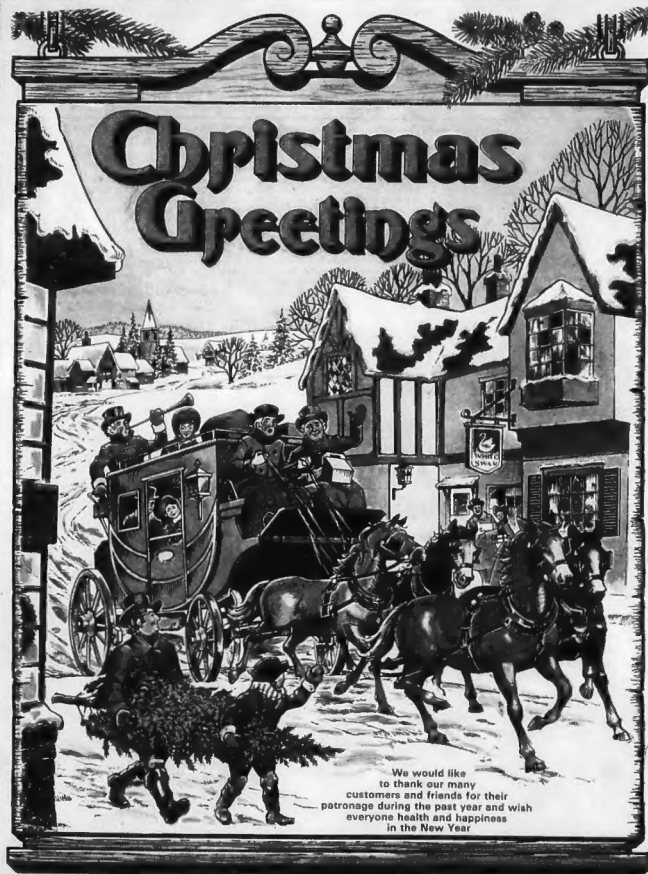




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THE WESTERN Review

Vol. 18 No. 51

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1982

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Mandatory exams possible for 1984

By Greg Harris

The possibility that comprehensive exams will be made mandatory for Grade 12 students in 1984 is an unappealing one for Drayton Valley educators.

Minister of Education Dave Klug announced Friday he will recommend to the government caucus "that the comprehensive examinations in January and June of 1983 be administered on an optional basis for that year only, and that they become mandatory in 1984."

"I didn't think he'd go that far," remarked Bev Dekker, Drayton Valley Alberta Teachers' Association representative.

"By no means does the ATA want them compulsory ... exams are quite often not statistically exact and they would have the effect of taking the immediacy out of teaching," she said.

"Departmentals were like a medieval torture device the way they were used before," charged Richie Woods, Frank Maddeck High School principal.

"The one thing that bothers me is we don't know what the validity and reliability of that test is ... I've seen in the past how these tests are unreliable," he said.

Better methods of assessing and insuring competency would result if the government struck a school accreditation board to evaluate teaching standards, said Woods.

"We'll test and assess the students ... surely we know more about a kid who's been here for three years than an exam can show."

(Continued on page 2)



Santa Claus visited the Drayton Valley Play School Thursday and Friday to find out who was naughty and who was nice. Robb Jansen and Adam Park

were two of the children to climb on his knee for consultation. (photo by Stuart Adams)

Holiday Hours

The Western Review would like to announce the following hours of operation for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Our office will be closed Dec. 23 and 24 and 31. All deadlines for advertising and news copy will still be in effect.

Deadlines which fall on a day on which we are closed will be extended to the following deadline day.

We would like to wish our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Children's theatre ... Pg. 16

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Well capping efforts stalled

By Stuart Adams

Repairs to an integral piece of equipment in the capping operation halted an attempt to cap the wild well near Lodgepole on Monday.

Amoco Canada spokesman Iden Smith said the left track of an Athey wagon jammed as it was being moved into position to lower the blowout preventer (BOP) over the wellhead. As of Monday afternoon the track had been removed and a faulty bearing was being replaced.

The Athey wagon is basically a crane with a 10-metre boom and is mounted on tracks. It has no built-in means of locomotion and is either pushed or pulled by a bulldozer.

"By Tuesday we hope the Athey wagon will have been repaired and they'll be able to move the BOP into the well flow," Smith said Monday afternoon.

"Boots will conduct this particular exercise," he added, referring to Boots Hansen of the Boots and Coats wild well control team from Texas.

The BOP will be bolted to a new casing bowl which was attached to the wellbore casing last week. The original casing bowl was damaged by the second fire and had to be replaced.

To facilitate the operation a trench 120 metres long, 10 metres wide and three metres deep was dug with the wellhead in the middle.

Crews then worked while protected by heat shields to attach the new casing bowl.

Smith said once the 10-tonne (12-ton) BOP is bolted onto this casing bowl the blind ram inside it will be closed and the gas will be diverted to a flare pit.

(Continued on page 2)



Riser pipe at the end of 10-metre (40 ft.) boom readied to be positioned by Athey wagon.

Opinions

Share Christmas spirit with others

Christmas is a time to be cherished and a time to reflect on what is good in our lives.

This is a time of year when everyone makes an effort to live together in harmony and extend good feelings toward each other. Through the year we struggle with our jobs and our debts and our wants and our needs. We all have our difficulties and they are reflected in the society around us.

At no other time of the year is there the communal spirit that is found during the Christmas season. Although the preparations for it are sometimes frenzied and chaotic, the end result is rewarding.

The time of year is special, whether you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, or the yuletide festivities.

Christmas is for us to celebrate and we should celebrate it for ourselves. That celebration should be manifested by sharing with each other what we all have to offer.

It means we should give and receive with sincerity and honesty.

This holiday season only comes once a year and it is unfortunate we cannot extend the feelings over the rest of the year.

But we don't and that is why we should make every effort to spend this holiday doing the most we can for each other; it will be appreciated and returned to you.

Editor's Notes

Drayton Valley has a special place in my family's memories of Christmas.

Every year we talk about the blue spruce we had for one of the Christmases when we lived in Drayton Valley.

My dad found it somewhere west of town near the Pembina River. He worked for Halliburton when we lived here and knew the lesser roads well.

My brother and I were six and eight years old and we went along with him and trudged through the snow to get to the tree.

I can't remember for sure, but I think it was the year he forgot to bring the axe and had to cut the tree down with his pocket knife.

It was a full tree, with lots of branches and the needles had a strong tinge of blue.

Our decorations even 20 years ago were old. They had been given to my mother by her mother and some of them came from her mother before her.

The lights were electric, but they were the



Gliny Kuzek puts to fine use the small amount of snow in her front yard at 4008 56 St. in creating a stunning ice sculpture of an angel. She was

aided by her children Deonore, Byron and Dallas, and by neighbors Heather and Jennifer Peterson.

old-fashioned kind in which the whole string wouldn't work if any one of the lights was burnt out.

We had a star that had been on our great-grandmother's Christmas trees and passed on to us. The glass balls were hand-painted and

also older than my mother.

We still have pictures of the tree and the decorations and the presents under it. It wasn't the most opulent Christmas our family has enjoyed, but it is one of the best-remembered.



Merv Pash of Trans-Alta Utilities points out the do's and don'ts of working with electricity.

High voltage can cost lives

By Greg Harris

Approximately 100 safety conscious truck drivers attended a government-sponsored seminar on the dangers of high voltage power lines at the Amoco Safety Hall Wednesday.

The death of a Drayton Valley man Nov. 3, which resulted when he came in contact with a high voltage power line, was in part responsible for the information forum, according to C.R. White, supervisor of electrical inspections for the Edmonton region.

"One fatal death last month prompted this people interviewed in connection with our investigation weren't aware of the dangers," said White.

"Why there weren't two or three killed there was a miracle," he added.

"It's not that there is any more negligence in the area, it's just that activity in the west country is increased — power lines have been knocked down

without being reported," said Merv Golly, area inspector with the Electrical Protection Branch of General Safety Services division.

Moving equipment has the "biggest potential" for power line contact, according to White.

"There hasn't been a line put up high enough or buried deep enough that someone hasn't broken through," said White. Operators of dump trucks, booms, lift baskets and backhoes run the greatest risks of power line contact. However, anyone who works with electricity or near power lines on a day-to-day basis must also exercise extreme caution, he stressed.

Slides of survivors of electrical accidents showed grisly results: electrical burns inflict extreme damage and are difficult to treat because they burn from the inside out. "We don't like to use scare tactics, but we have to use enough to get the message across," said White.

"If we can save one life it's all been worth it," concluded White.

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The Western Review, Drayton Valley, is published by Linnell Publications Ltd. at their office in Drayton Valley, Alberta T2C 0M4 (403) 542-5282. Mailing address is Box 101, Drayton Valley.

Recreation

Maciborsky considers ice conditions in his success

By Greg Harris

Don Maciborsky and Carl Passy risks are making plans for some playdowns in Stony Plain Jan. 7, 8 and 9 as a result of their success in Drayton Valley Curling Club playdowns Saturday.

Maciborsky clinched the "A" side of the double knock-out competition with a 9-4 win over Passy who then went on to qualify through the "B" with a narrow win over the Joe Hoshowski rink.

Passy, last year's zone 16 playdowns finalist, squeaked in through the back door by sealing a point on Hoshowski in a heart-stopping finish to win by one.

With the score tied in the tenth, Skip Elton Keown laid his first stone in the four-foot, partially under cover, according to third-man Passy. "Joe (Hoshowski) came down and tapped it back but rolled into the open," he said.

Keown executed a hit and roll with his last rock forcing Hoshowski

to come up with a "Gusset shot," said Passy. His stone dug in out in front of the house and wrecked on a guard, leaving Passy risk mites counting one and heavier a sigh of relief. "I wouldn't want to live on the slowness of that shot," remarked Passy.

The Maciborsky-Passy "A" final went stone for stone until the eighth end when Maciborsky counted three. Maciborsky forced Passy to take one in the ninth and enjoyed the hammer in the tenth.

Maciborsky pointed to ice conditions as a possible factor in their success.

"It was excellent ice for the come-around game we like to play. If we get on straight ice where the rocks back up a bit we kind of lose our game," said Maciborsky.

This is the first year Maciborsky, Third Great Stinchinski, Second David Stachinski and Lead Ray Shapka have curled together competitively and they're looking forward to "still competition" in the zones



An unidentified dynamic sweeping duo hares a stone into the house during Saturday's curling action.

from the likes of Wayne Sabo out of Onoway, third-man for Gil Svensen in the days of the Svensen dynasty.

Passy, Keown and Second Gordon Maclock have curled together for three years. They recently picked up Alan Day at lead when former teammate Allan Fedoruk decided to spend the 1982-83 season in retirement.

They'll no doubt be looking to repeat and improve upon last year's performance in the zones when they climbed the "A" side draw all the way to the final.

Also participating in Saturday's club playdowns were the Bruce Clemmer rink who lost to Maciborsky in the first round and Hoshowski in the second.

Problems continue to plague the Flyers

Sport Comment



Flyer Al Munro charges Eckville Eagles' net in a losing cause.

by Mack McKell

Woe has befallen the Flyers camp. Following two humiliating losses, one to Bentley 9-3 and the other to Eckville 8-3, team members are rattled and frustrated. The Bentley loss, Dec. 15, can be excepted - the Generals are the fastest, shottiest team in the league, last year's champions and tough in their home rink.

Versus the Generals, the Flyers had split two previous games with one loss and one win, and figured to perform better with additional players on the roster.

They didn't, so team members held a closed-door meeting after that game.

"They kept management out of the room and discussed team spirit for over an hour," said Al Hinton of the Flyers organization.

"They're unhappy with them selves and I had expected to see them hunting out the gate against Eckville (Dec. 18 in Drayton Valley) but they flopped."

The Eckville-Flyer game started with goaltender Gord McIlmott

In the second period, the Flyers showed some hustle and were shot-for-shot with Eckville, but went to the dressing room with a 5-3 deficit.

The third period was a repeat of the first. Eckville plain outshot, outskated and outscored the Flyers during a crucial 20 minutes of hockey.

"Last time we played them, we beat Eckville 3-0. This time, they walk all over us," Hinton lamented. "It's tough for me to remain objective because I'm so close to the team but, I honestly think there's more talent this year than on last year's club."

You can't win games when the opposition has the puck sixty-five per cent of the game, he added.

With enough personnel, the Flyer bench was always rested, and that's a change.

"But they seem to lack motivation. They just show up and expect things to take care of themselves." Maybe Hinton is being too critical. Maybe I am too. The club season started. They are just now getting the line-up together and, once over the Christmas rump, the Flyers should be definite contenders.

Blades stonewalled by Warrior goaltender

By Mack McKell

They came out looking spiffy in their brand new Cooperall uniforms, finally looking the way they were made for each other.

They ran smack into a firecracker goaltender, who stalled 55 Branderite Blade drives, 34 of those in the last period.

The score? Whitecourt 9 - Drayton Valley 5. "It's wasn't for that goaltender, we'd have beat them quite soundly," said Les Sinclair, Branderite Blades' coach.

No argument could be made against that. The Blades came out of the gate working and skating all over the Warriors, even killed a penalty easily,

then let in a soft goal. The first period had each team score three times.

The second period wasn't good to the Blades. They took a number of cheap penalties, had five players taking up space in the sin-bin, and fell behind 6-4 at the end of it.

But the third period was all Branderite. They pummeled Whitecourt, in the corners, in front of the Warrior net and they blasted the goaltenders hand with shot after shot. And for nothing.

"I think that goaltender had an exceptional game," conceded Ernie Stables, manager of the Blades.

"Our boys did everything they could. They played well, no problem."

They played almost as exceptionally as the Warrior goaltender. For eight solid minutes, the Blades poured at the net, bodies and shots. Finally, Mark Winneff sniped a low blast from the point past Gates Gersmair.

With the score 7-5, Sinclair pulled his netminder for the extra attacker, only to have his boys hand the puck to Whitecourt.

Whitecourt added more launch to injury by beating Rod Beresniuk for the eighth time, making the score 9-5 final.

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Oilers impress during come-back situation

The Norette Oilers played Wetaskiwin to a 5-5 tie, Dec. 18 at Centennial Civic Centre. The tie came on the heels of a 6-4 victory over Red Deer the week before, and given the Drayton Valley bantams a 2-2-4 record in league play.

Last week we played real well against Red Deer, getting 100 per cent from all the guys," said Larry Paffenroth, Oiler team manager.

The goaltending has been outstanding and the team is really pulling together.

"The break-out is beginning to work and the penalty killers know their jobs," Paffenroth said.

The Wetaskiwin match was scrappy, two-way hockey. The Oilers led 2-0 at the end of the first period. The game was tied at the end of two.

Then the excitement started. Wetaskiwin jumped ahead on two

goals, as the third period wound down.

"We were forced to press, play offensively in the late stages of the game."

"That can be costly but for the Oilers it worked. Two last minute goals! What a finish."

Using Ness, Benoit and Shimabashi Norette applied solid pressure for ten minutes but not until the 44 second mark did they score.

Twenty seconds later they evened the score, with 24 seconds showing on the clock.

"I was proud of their performance," added Paffenroth.

"They were two men short for two minutes and held Wetaskiwin back, then to finish in a tie was satisfying."

(Puck notes: Norette plays a tournament in Drayton Mountain House Dec. 26, 27 and 28 and resumes league play after the New Year.)



Norette Oiler Blair Shimabashi hustles after the puck in the open ice.

Bowling update

Bowling results for Dec. 6 to 11 for mixed leagues were LHS Wanda Cole 304, LHT Wanda Cole 373 and LHA Laura Barker 215. MHS Al Tenhauser 272, MHT Doug Page 683 and MHA Orville Carl

214.

Ladies' league results were LHS Janice Blais 296, LHT Ruby Harley 720 and LHA Laura Barker 217. Wednesday morning Golden Age bowlers of the week were Dorothy

McCartney 75 POA and Adolf Waser 82 POA; Saturday afternoon Golden Age bowlers of the week were Olga Waser 107 POA and Henry Nicholson 131 POA. In youth leagues, bowlers of the week

were: bantams Michelle LeBlanc 40 POA and Cory Vg 22 POA; Juniors David Ness 98 POA and Barb Steffen 56 POA; seniors Diane Kramer 59 POA and Todd McLean 56 POA.



Trish Watson pushes her snowing sister Trina during Wednesday's Tiny Threes Skating Club's skate with Santa.



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Rita Gusek is this week's student.

She hopes to teach the deaf

By Carrie Dauterholt
Work Experience Student

Rita Gusek feels some improvements could be made in Drayton Valley. "I'd like to change some of the people's personalities and I think they should have more street cleaners, especially in the summer."

Her family has lived here for four years with Fort McMurray being their previous residence. This 18-year-old, Grade 12 student feels school isn't bad. "It's okay, I don't mind it," she said.

Rita says she doesn't like some subjects and some teachers and she would like to see a change in some school policies. "Holidays, Typing, Art, Music and especially getting out early" are her favorite things about school.

Rita enjoys a variety of sports. "I like volleyball, cross-country skiing, swimming, golfing, jogging and that's about it." However, prior injuries keep her from getting too involved.

She gets along well with her two brothers and two sisters "real good." She says she used to fight with her older brother and sister a lot.

"I don't live at home anymore so I get along with them better," she gave as her reason for getting along with them now.

Rita plans to go out and work when she's finished school. "I'm starting to learn a little about teaching the deaf," she said, adding that she hopes to eventually become a teacher of the deaf.

She enjoys such hobbies as rug hooking and "doing a lot of baking around Christmas." She also does a few crafts with her little brother and sister.

Rita is planning to go to British Columbia with her boyfriend to his parents' place for Christmas. She's hoping for clothes, jewelry and most of all a leather coat. She doesn't seem to feel there is much chance of getting the leather coat.

"It's hard to say what he's going to get me," she remarked as to what her boyfriend, Kim Madiuk, would be buying her.

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Heavenly angels float triumphantly over the reverent and hushed Christmas landscape... No glorious sounds ringing melodiously through the stillness. As all celebrate this season of eternal peace and love, we send sincere thanks to dear friends for their faith and trust.
Greetings from
Sig & Ruby, Jim, Mindert, David, Lyle, Harold, Melvin, in the muffler shop, and Ray in the alignment centre.
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DUTCH'S Beauty Salon
Kirk and his staff would like to express their joy and happiness to you during this holiday season. Wishing you a Merry, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope that the New Year is as rewarding and fulfilling for you, as it has been for us this last year. Thanks to the people of Drayton Valley for making 1982 a very successful year for Dutch's Beauty Salon.
Manager Kirk Meistr and staff



542-5169 542-4901
Drayton Valley

Hudson's Bay Company

Kids make big Christmas haul



Wayne and Mandy pose beside their stocking.

By Mack McCall
One of the nice things about Christmas is that it's geared for kids. Two little children won a big Christmas bonus on Monday, while shopping with momma at Drayton Valley shopping centre.

"We put our names to the (thing) and won it," explained Mandy Nelson, age six, and a student at Eldorado School, as she admired the gigantic Christmas tree filled with stuff. She shares the prize

with her brother, Wayne, age four, and a playmate Tyler. The pair scamper away with a six-foot high Christmas stocking packed with countless numbers of games and toys.

"I just entered their names last week," said Darlene Nelson, mother to the lucky kids.

"They were at a Legion party the other night and made a good haul there too—they're doing fine this year," she laughed.

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THE GOOD TIMES ARE ROLLING!
PUBLIC BOWLING RINKS: Sat. 3:30 through evening Sat. 7:00 through evening

Drayton Valley Church Of God Christmas Eve Services
Friday, Dec. 24
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Everyone is welcome

Legion Calendar
Hall Rentals - 542-4509
General meeting first Tues. of every month.
Pancake Breakfast 2nd Sunday of every month.
Pick up your Legion Card at the door.
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - second Tuesday of every month.
Ladies Auxiliary Bingo - third Tuesday every month.
Now collecting for Earlybird memberships
Initiation to take place each general meeting
Service Officer - Call Adam Murzylofski

Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 288 New Year's Eve FROLIC
Dance 9 p.m.
Band: Kikker
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Bar Opens: 8:30 p.m.
Tickets on sale at Legion Lounge until December 29, 1982. \$35.00 per couple.

Elk's New Year's Eve
8 p.m. New Year's Eve for B.P.O.E. - O.D.R.P. & Guests
Music by Larry & Chris (Records)
Midnight Snacks
Tickets at Lloyd's Jewellers \$4.00 each

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Merv Pansula of TransAlta Utilities demonstrates electrical hazards.

Electrical safety being taught

By Stuart Adams
Under a program which has four, \$5,000 display units circulating in the province, TransAlta Utilities hopes to educate the young and old about the dangers of electricity.

Merv Pansula, district superintendent for TransAlta, spoke to several classes from the Drayton Valley Community Kindergarten last Thursday.

He used the board, which is a working, electric model, to demonstrate the importance of avoiding electrical installations. The children were told to stay away from such things as substations and be careful around power lines and near trees or on telephone poles.

Sparks flew as he pulled levers or used an insulated rod to show what happens when someone comes in contact with electricity. The graphic examples impressed the students and Pansula fielded a number of questions at the end of the lecture. "It's going over well with the simulated use

of electricity," he said after the presentation. He added the company has a program aimed largely at the Grade 6 classes.

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Merry Xmas from your M.P.
Maureen and Catherine and I want to wish you the very best for Christmas and the New Year. This past year has been extremely difficult for Canadians and people in western Alberta have suffered serious losses. My staff and I have tried to help solve individual problems, but we all know the only real help is economic recovery. This country has the potential to sustain recovery and growth, and I urge you to keep your confidence in our great country. This is a season for families and friends to come together and plan together, to make the most of 1983. Thanks for your help and encouragement, and good luck.

Wedding Plans? THEN SEE US
A wedding reception is intended to all kinds to some in and register in our hotel registry and receive a free piece of Edmonton capital economy. (The hotel registry helps in financial development of spirit.)
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Play ends happily

The children weren't the only ones who enjoyed the Sunday evening presentation of *The Bell by the D.V. Players*. Following a relatively well-attended matinee showing in the afternoon, director Ian Johnston and stage manager Mary Practice were disappointed with the turnout, but decided to go on with the performance.

Prattice explained the need for their participation to the approximately 25 people in attendance.

The gamble paid off and the children and their parents crowded around the stage area.

With the children comprising about half the number, the support of the parents was necessary to cook all the food and provide the sound effects for the storms and magic portions.

The story had a happy ending which found the entire cast and audience celebrating the making of the Bell of Happiness.

It was a surprise ending which hadn't been in the dress rehearsal. Once the 'Bell of Happiness' had been made, the cast and the audience joined together to do *The Bird Dance*.



Parents join children in the presentation of D.V. Players' *The Bell*.

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Drama 20 class makes stage debut

By Greg Harris

Frank Maddock's Drama 20 class presented the culmination of two months of hard labor Dec. 15 with their successful staging of two one-act comedies.

"The quite pleased with the way they did and they seemed quite pleased with their performances as well," remarked course instructor Jo-Ann Killips.

The first play, a soap opera written by the cast, dealt on the sordid connivings of five people reared by greed.

A nattering alcoholic (Racine Guyon) schemed with a fourth-rate lounge singer (Gaston Landry) to murder a lounge manager (David Kennedy), who had fired him.

Nattering alcoholic's husband (Brady Hamilton) plotted with a would-be lounge owner (Rob Belton) to extort \$1 million from lounge manager.

The convoluted plot twisted to a dramatic conclusion with fourth-rate lounge singer framed in a multiple-shooting incident that left everyone dead or injured except for nattering alcoholic.

Visitors From Forest Hills, a Neil Simon comedy, featured a husband and wife (Paul Stables and Liana Haight) spending the seventh hour before their daughter's wedding trying to coax her from their hotel-room bathroom.

Mother and father debate their successes and failures as parents during their attempts to lure the blushing bride (Wendy Earl) downstairs to the ceremony. All efforts prove fruitless until fiancé (Brady Hamilton) arrives on the scene to tell his wife-to-be to "cool it."

Wendy Earl, Liana Skogen and Cameron Lathe re-directed the plays while Terry Gillis worked backstage.

The performances marked the debut for the Grade 11 actors and actresses and they all appeared at home on stage.

Lines were missed according to Killips, but



Blushing bride (Wendy Earl) chats with mother (Liana Haight) while father (Paul Stables) listens in.

went largely unnoticed due to skilful ad libbing. Only a few grunts crept into the production works such as doors swinging open and telephones ringing slightly off cue.

"It's quite a popular class ... the kids like it because they get to get up and act silly—it's an outlet for them."

"Kids have come to me and told me it has helped them in other areas, such as English," said Killips.

The next performance planned by the high school Drama department is slated for Jan. 15 and 16 when the Drama 30 class will join with the food sciences department to put on a dinner theatre.

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Wed. Thurs. & Sat. 29-30 JAN. 1

FOR ALL THOSE
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Heddi's Song

General

First-aid courses offered through village

The Funnell Christmas concert will be held Thursday, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. in the centre. If you wish your child to participate in the program, call Janet at 696-2485.

Members of the Funnell Community Club can get tickets for the New Year's supper and dance by contacting Kathy at 696-5478 or Lilian at 696-2886. The annual meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 10.

Kathy Neufeld will represent Funnell on the Breton and District Regional Recreation and Parks Board for the next year.

There were five tables at the card party held at Funnell Dec. 15 with Agnes Saunders winning ladies' high, Gail Fanneman ladies' low, Bill Biko men's high and Ray Ellis men's low. The travelling prize was won by Ben Tryon and the door prize went to Ray Ellis.

The next card party at the Funnell Community Centre will be Wednesday, Jan. 5.

The Breton and District Regional Recreation and Parks Board held a meeting Dec. 13 with three newly appointed representatives present. Roy Young and Alex Waldron represented the village of Breton and Judy Meade represented the Community Club.

The board is sponsoring a puppet show Feb. 19 from 2 to 5 p.m.

The next meeting of the Breton and District Regional Recreation Board will be the annual one held Monday, Jan. 17.

The Breton Hospital Auxiliary held a meeting Dec. 16 with 14 members present.

The hostess for the next meeting will be Marie Frank and Alma Gillies.

The ladies of the Breton Women's Institute met recently at the Golden Age Centre with 15 members present. The hostess was Lela Ellis.

Thea Williams won the promissory draw. The nickel draw was won by Valda Deas and Thelma Williams won the penny draw.

The executive will remain the same for another year.



Breton News

by Lois Dyck
696-2384

The Ray Ellis home was the scene of a large family dinner Dec. 12 to celebrate the birthdays in December. Courtney, Michael, Gregory and Lorraine Ellis and Marvin Long all have December birthdays.

Sympathy is extended to the Craig family on the death of Gail Craig, a long-time resident of the area.

The test day for the figure skaters will be Dec. 27.

Fatality

A fatal accident occurred Dec. 18 one kilometre north of MacKay at 7:30 p.m., reports Corporal Yasinski of the Drayton RCMP detachment.

"It was a single-vehicle accident where the vehicle left the road at a bridge, landing in the creek bed below," explained Yasinski.

The deceased is John Gray of MacKay, who, according to police, had been travelling alone in the car.

30 at 1 p.m. and the power skaters will be tested Dec. 27 starting at 4 p.m.

Beginning in the new year skating will be offered at the Elementary School outdoor rink, free of charge.

A caretaker will not be available when the weather drops to minus 20 degrees C.

The Breton Civic Centre Club room is starting Saturday, Jan. 16.

The Wynns Puppet and Variety Show is coming to Breton Feb. 19 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Breton High School gymnasium.

A cardio-pulmonary resuscitation course can be held any weekend in March or April with a minimum of eight people registered.

A first aid course of seven sessions of three hours each can also be offered.

Both of the above courses issue certificates to those who successfully complete the course. Leave your name at the Breton Village office if interested in either or both of the courses.



May the splendor of the season bring you and yours the greatest times yet...filled with joyous harmony, true love and everlasting peace! Thanks to all!

Merry Christmas

From Council and Employees



COUNTY OF
PARKLAND NO. 31

Hopes rising for toboggan party

By Crystal Ostergat
At the Nov. 29 meeting of the Pembina Horticulture and 16A Tractor Club, Gregory Semelink and Wayne Verbeek were welcomed as new members.

Six members attended the communications festival held Nov. 12 to 14.

Mrs. Benick took part in the leadership

workshop held in Drayton Valley and she spoke on R. Edward and James Benick went to the news media seminar Dec. 4.

The club hopes to have a staff at the Dec. 11 and 18 Farmers' Markets as a money making project.

The Christmas party was held Dec. 10. The club hopes to have a toboggan party in January. Interest is also shown in the Ice Capades and is to be again brought up later.

The importance of filling out personal record forms was stressed.

Feb. 12 is the Valentine queen dance at Camp Ho-Ho-Ho. March 11, 12 and 13 is the public speaking semi-finals. March 19 is the finals. March 27 is curling; and April 9 is the multi-judging seminar in Neepawa.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year is extended to the surrounding community.

Christmas party shelved for mid-winter bash

By Tracy Plannmuller

A 4-H meeting was held Dec. 8 for the Lobstick 4-H Beef and Clothing Club at the Wildwood Hall Annex.

Meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of every month.

4-H News

The club discussed party but the subject the idea of a Christmas was tabled to the next

meeting when we will plan a winter party instead.

Tracy Plannmuller gave an explanation talk on the Valentine dance which our club will host at Camp Ho-Ho-Ho.

The duties of each member for the awards banquet which is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 30.

The two clubs separated into the beef and clothing clubs, and demonstrations and quizzes were given.



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The employees to be hired are not to have worked for the company as of December 1, 1982.

Proposals for maintaining existing employees may be considered on a case by case basis.

Jobs should offer full-time employment for a minimum of 3 months and should provide skills that assist employees in finding permanent employment.

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THE WESTERN Review

Vol. 18 No. 52

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1982

Price 26¢

-1982-The year in review

Thoughts turn to
the year ahead

It seems appropriate to look back over the past year before going on into 1983. As the voice of the community The Western Review has seen a number of changes over the year - both within itself and in the town it serves.

The most obvious have been in the editorial department. For those familiar with the newspaper industry it should come as no surprise that everyone beginning 1983 is a new face from last year.

You may also have noticed we changed our type size to the larger, easier to read 10 point. This happened in October and since we didn't hear about it we assume you like it.

There have also been changes in the layout and design of the paper - all with an eye toward improving it. Dig up a year-old copy and compare the banners on the front page. Remember when those were changed last summer?

Outside the paper we have seen a number of changes in the community and 1982 was an eventful year. We had an election this year and another blowout.

Before and after there were a number of other new things, as well as repeats. During it all we did our best to be there to report them for our reader ship.

Hopefully you have enjoyed our coverage in 1982 and will enjoy our coverage of 1983. But before we begin 1983 - this is our review of 1982.

FROZEN
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Lodgepole's towering inferno claimed two lives and defied efforts of well-fighting teams for 66 days. It was brought under control Dec. 23. [photo by Greg Harris]

Hansen meets the challenge

By Stuart Adams

A rare technique was used to bring the Amoco Canada wild well near Lodgepole under control Thursday. Boots Hansen, of Boots and Coots Inc., led a team which capped the well while it remained on fire.

Hansen had accomplished the feat twice before and it was only the fourth or fifth time it has been done in the history of wild well fighting.

"I was very relieved," said Hansen. "We told 'em we could do it and we showed a film of one we capped while on fire, realizing we'd have to rig up heavier for this one."

"This was a real good sized well and to do it without water was quite an accomplishment."

He explained his two previous capings had taken place in England and Alabama at times of the year when they were able to use water to cool the men and equipment.

Winter temperatures eliminated that possibility on this well. Susan and ice would have created too many problems, said Hansen.

To provide protection, heat shields were used and a chimney like 'riser' was placed above the wellbore to extend the flame higher above the workers.

A 10-metre deep trench was dug to allow crews access to the well casing below the casing bowl which was damaged when the well caught fire the second time. This casing bowl had to be removed so a second one could be attached to receive the blowout preventer (BOP).

Once the new casing bowl was installed, an attempt to attach the BOP was halted when a hearing failed on one track of the Ashley wagon being used to move the BOP.

Bugs were made and the successful attempt followed Thursday. Once the BOP was bolted down flare lines were attached to it and the gas flow was diverted to a flare pit.

The valves to the flare pit were then slowly closed and drilling mud was pumped into the hole to counteract the gas pressure and 'kill' the well.

Hansen left Drayton Valley Friday morning for his home in Houston. He said it would be his first Christmas at home in three years.

Last year he and fellow firefighter Pat Campbell spent Christmas with a wild well in England. The year before they had "two Christmases" when they returned from working in China and crossed the International Date Line on Christmas Day.

"We have Coots (Matthews) and Rick Baker were first out," he said the evening before he left.

Hansen said the company has two men other than himself and Coots who are capable of handling blowouts on their own. Pat Campbell is one of them and he accompanied him here at the request of Amoco.

Another Boots and Coots firefighter was also on this job, Clayton Berry, as well as two men from the fire and protective equipment division, Dwight Williams and Hansen's son Orin.

The blowout was the fifth Boots and Coots has handled this year. Hansen said they did 58 last year and 64 the year before. "People don't realize there are blowouts unless they get publicity," he added.

He said he was in this area in 1964 with Myron Kistler, the original wild well fighter. They were working on a blowout near Pigeon Lake for Texaco and one of the bulldozer operators he met on that job worked for him on this one - a man he referred to as "Mr. Lindsay".

In 1969 Red Adair, who also worked for Kistler, formed his own company and Boots and Coots went with him. They were Adair's lead hands until December of 1977 when Adair fired them.

"We tried to find out why," said Hansen. "It was just insubordination."

He explained how they were trying to expand (Continued on page 2)

Boots Hansen.